

REMARKS:

Claims 14 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1-13, 15-19 and 21-23 are pending in the application.

The Office objected to claims 1-23 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended now to provide proper antecedent basis for the term “the tool string”, and the term “the drill string” has been deleted from claims 1 and 13. Furthermore, claim 13 has been amended now to provide proper antecedent basis for the term “the at least one pressure sensor” in dependent claim 21.

The Office rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as variously being anticipated by Wisler (7,170,423) and/or in view of Wei (6,753,791) and Boyle et al (2002/0193004).

Claims 1 and 13 of the present invention have been amended now to include limitations that the string includes a plurality of nodes along a string of inductively coupled wired pipes with the sensor(s) in one of node(s) and the receiver in another of the nodes. This new limitation of having nodes in the string which contain the sensors and the receivers is not disclosed or described in any of the above references. Applicants believe that claims 1 and 13 as amended are now allowable and therefore request allowance of these claims.

Claims 14 and 20 have been canceled, claim 3 has been amended to avoid redundancy, and claim 9 has been amended now to be limited to automatically actuating. Since pending claims 2-12, 15-19, and 21-23 depend now from allowable claims 1 or 13, applicants believe that these claims are also allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims as well.

In view of the amendments made herein, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on July 6, 2007

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<u>7/6/07</u>	<u>/Jeffery E. Daly/</u>
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